

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
CONFIDENTIAL

PROCESSING ACTION

TO
Chief, EUR Division

INFO.
Chief of Station, []

FROM
Chief of Base, []

SUBJECT
CASCOPE
Press Article on General GEHLEN

MARKED FOR INDEXING

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

ONLY QUALIFIED DESK
CAN JUDGE INDEXING

MICROFILM

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Attached for addressees are copies of an item in the SPD-leaning Munich daily Abend-Zeitung of 23/24 November 1974 concerning an interview by correspondent Carl SCHMIDT-POLEX with retired BND chief Reinhard GEHLEN. In the interview, GEHLEN expressed his concern over the current adverse publicity regarding the BND, which he described as "deadly" and serving to scare away collaborators and creating the possibility that friendly western services may break off contacts with the West German service. GEHLEN went on to deny having had dossiers collected on the peccadillos of German public figures. In any case, files concerning such public figures were kept in his own Pullach office to avoid any possible misuse. Asked whether he was still in contact with colleagues in the BND, GEHLEN replied that this had "unfortunately" been broken off, and made no attempt to conceal his disappointment that his successor, President Gerhard WESSEL, has made no use of his offer to assist him with his counsel. GEHLEN added that he found the new open style of the BND beyond understanding. GEHLEN went on to deny that the BND had ever been involved illegally in arms deals, as had been alleged in the press.

Attachments: H/W

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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